

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03025 291102Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
VO-05 CA-01 H-01 /036 W  
-----020619 292133Z /64  
R 291029Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7609

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 03025

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS SHUM IR  
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRIES: SAID SHAMS AL-AHMAD

REF: A. STATE 75497, B. TEHRAN 02920

1. THIS UPDATES AND CLARIFIES INFO REGARDING AL-AHMAD WHICH REF B SUPPLIED IN REPLY TO REF A.
2. ACCORDING TO SOURCE WHO HAS SEEN FLYER AND HAS TALKED TO TWO DISSIDENTS WHO KNOW SUBJECT WELL, FOLLOWING IS ACCOUNT OF EVENTS SURROUNDING PUBLICATION OF BOOK WHOSE TITLE GIVEN HERE IN ENGLISH AS "THE WESTERN DISEASE".
3. AL-AHMAD HAS BEEN IN AND OUT OF TROUBLE WITH IRANIAN AUTHORITIES SINCE TIME OF MOSSADEQ AND IS CONSIDERED SOLIDLY-LEFT-WING LITERARY FIGURE. ABOUT A MONTH AGO, HE WAS PREPARIN TO PUBLISH BOOK ON PROBLEMS OF WESTERNIZATION. AL-AHMAD DECIDED TO SHORT-CUT NORMAL PUBLICATION PROCEDURES AND FORGED CENSOR'S STAMP OF APPROVAL (WHICH REQUIRED HERE AND NORMALLY ROUTINE MATTER EXCEPT FOR SPECIFICALLY POLITICAL OR POLITICO-RELISIOUS WORKS. WHEN GOI PRESUMABLY THROUGH PRINTER) DISCOVERED FORGERY, AL-AHMAD WAS ARRESTED AND ENTIRE PUBLICATION RUN WAS CONFISCATED (AND POSSIBLY DESTROYED) BECAUSE REQUISITE APPROVAL STAMP HAD BEEN FORGED.

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4. SOURCE WHO REPORTED THIS INTIMATED THAT, WHILE CENSORSHIP PERHAPS NOT LEGAL IN U.S., AL-AHMAD APPEARS TO HAVE CLEARLY BROKEN FORGERY LAW AND, GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS MIGHT NOT RPT NOT BE BEST POSSIBLE CASE ON WHICH TO CRITICIZE CENSORSHIP.
- SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, CENSORSHIP, BOOKS, JOURNALISTS, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TEHRAN03025  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780136-1048  
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**Review Event:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3127708  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRIES: SAID SHAMS AL-AHMAD  
**TAGS:** PINS, SHUM, IR, (AL-AHMAD, SAID SHAMS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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